

Center for Advanced Energy Studies opens

Contributed by John Howze,
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U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman and Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne highlighted the opening of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) at INL June 1. Also seen in these photos are Idaho Sen. Larry Craig, Rep. Butch Otter, DOE NE-ID Manager Beth Sellers, INL Director John Grossenbacher and CAES Director Leonard Bond. CAES will eventually have four research centers focused on a broad spectrum of advanced energy studies.

The Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) got off to a tremendous start Wednesday, June 1, as Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, and a host of other dignitaries attended the inaugural event of CAES' s programmatic activities.

CAES's formal programmatic opening followed a day in which Bodman spoke to some 300 INL employees in a meeting at the Materials and Fuels Complex (MFC). Afterwards, Bodman dined at MFC with Kempthorne, Sen. Larry Craig and Rep. Butch Otter. Then, the group toured parts of MFC , the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center and the Radioactive Waste Management Complex.

At MFC , Bodman offered optimistic words about INL's future. "We will be looking to you and to this lab for leadership in the Advanced Fuel Cycle and the Next Generation Nuclear Plant," he said. "The goal here in Idaho is to become the premier facility for nuclear energy in the country. That's a tall order, but the premier facility will come only through you and your efforts."

Only recently appointed and confirmed to his office, Bodman pledged openness on the part of DOE and promised "to bring the perspectives of an engineer to the decisions I make."

Prior to government service in the Commerce and Treasury departments, he earned a doctorate in chemical engineering, taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and worked with venture capital in private business.



Secretary Bodman addresses the dignitaries gathered to inaugurate CAES. (INL photo)



Leonard Bond, CAES director

The CAES startup ceremony was also attended by representatives of leading universities, including ISU Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Robert Wharton (who is also chairman of the Idaho University Consortium), ISU President Dr. Richard Bowen, Boise State University Vice President of Research Dr. John Owens, University of Idaho Vice President of Research Dr. Charles Hatch, MIT's Dr. Andy Kadak, who also chairs the National University Consortium that will work closely with CAES, and Dr. Man-Sung Yim of North Carolina State University's Department of Nuclear Engineering.

While congratulating all involved on the historic startup of CAES , Bodman emphasized the federal government's role as an enabler that makes it possible for universities and private industry to do what you do so well.

"I might add that I am particularly pleased with the role that the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) is playing in CAES ," he said. EPRI , the research arm of the nation's electric power industry, has made significant commitments to see that INL's energy research and training programs will be keyed to the needs of a revitalized nuclear industry.

Gov. Kempthorne, whose support for CAES led to the establishment of the center in Idaho, was equally supportive.

"I am especially pleased that this important research will be conducted in Idaho," Gov. Kempthorne said. "The Idaho National Laboratory, as the nation's leading laboratory for nuclear energy research, makes this the perfect place for this important work."

Added Secretary Bodman, "These should be very exciting times for what you do. You will be instrumental in reviving nuclear power." He noted that CAES' s scientific research is of great importance to the nation.

"I am determined to do everything I can to maintain this country's leadership in science," he said. "It's being challenged as never before." He also offered encouragement for the hard work ahead.

"You are undertaking a task at which it would be easy to fail," he said. "I want you to know that my expectation is that you will not fail. You have the people, the partnerships and the focus needed to succeed - and it is important for the nation that you do succeed."

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